

February 9, 2006

**PRESS RELEASE**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

**AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL RULES**

The Local Rules for the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota have been amended pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 2071 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 83(a). The amendments were adopted and approved by the Judges of the District Court, and will become **effective on February 9, 2006**. The Rules affected by the amendments are Local Rules (“LR”) 16.2, 16.6, 39.1, 83.9 [repealed], 58 [new], and 72.1.

**Amendments to LR 16.2, 16.6 and 39.1.** The amendments to LR 16.2 and 16.6 will affect pretrial procedures in patent cases. The amended LR 16.2 requires that a special new form, Form 4, be used for the “Rule 26(f) Report” in patent cases, which will direct the parties to provide detailed information concerning discovery procedures. The new Form 4 endorses the use of a standard form protective order, Form 5, for patent cases in which a protective order may be appropriate. The amended LR.16.6 requires the parties in patent cases to “confer with the objective of agreeing to a particular set of model jury instructions to be used as a template for each party’s proposed jury instructions.” The amendment to LR 39.1 establishes special requirements for proposed jury instructions in patent cases.

**Amendments to LR 83.9 [repealed] and 58 [new].** The old LR 83.9, (“Collateral in Petty Offense Matters”), is repealed and superceded by the new LR 58, (“Fixed-Sum Payment In Petty Offense Matters”). The new rule reflects changes in the federal laws governing petty offense matters, which have occurred since the old LR 83.9 was adopted.

**Amendment to LR 72.1.** A new clause has been added to LR 72.1(a). This new clause, LR 72.1(a)vi, confirms that Magistrate Judges have the authority to conduct trials and impose sentences in petty offense cases, and also in misdemeanor cases when the defendant consents, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3401.

The full text of the Local Rules for the District of Minnesota, as amended, may be obtained by accessing the Court’s website at [www.mnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov), by visiting the Office of the Clerk of Court in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, or Fergus Falls, or by contacting the Clerk of Court: **Richard D. Sletten, U.S. District Court, 300 South Fourth Street, Suite 202, Minneapolis, MN 55415, (612-664-5026)**.